

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A portable terminal device for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the device comprising:

a microphone for transducing sound into a first analog voice stream;

at least one converter for converting the first analog voice stream to produce digital voice packets;

a transmitter for ~~transmitting~~ transmitting, via the wireless packet ~~network~~ network, the digital voice packets from the at least one converter;

a receiver for receiving digital voice packets from a base station in the wireless packet network;

the at least one converter for converting received digital voice packets to a second analog voice stream; and

a transducer for transducing the second analog voice stream into ~~sound~~ sound;

wherein the portable terminal device evaluates a message wirelessly received from the base station and sends to the base station an indication of a data rate based on the evaluation; and

wherein the base station selects a data rate for transmitting digital voice packets to the portable terminal device, based upon the indication of a data rate.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using ~~uses~~ an Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 24. (Currently amended) The device of claim 23 wherein the ~~Internet protocol is the~~ wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP)[[I]] over Internet protocol (IP) ~~protocol~~.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the at least one converter comprises:

an analog to digital converter for converting the first analog voice stream to digital voice data; and

a packetizer for assembling the digital voice data to produce digital voice packets.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the at least one converter comprises:

a depacketizer for extracting digital voice data from received digital voice packets; and

a digital to analog converter for converting the extracted digital voice data to produce the second analog voice stream.

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A circuit for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the circuit comprising:

at least one converter for converting a first analog voice stream to produce digital voice packets;

a transmitter for ~~transmitting~~ transmitting, via the wireless packet network ~~network~~ network, the digital voice packets from the at least one converter;

a receiver for receiving digital voice packets from a base station in the wireless packet network; and

the at least one converter for converting received digital voice packets to a second analog voice ~~stream~~ stream;

wherein the circuit evaluates a message wirelessly received from the base station and sends to the base station an indication of a data rate based on the evaluation; and

wherein the base station selects a data rate for transmitting digital voice packets, based upon the indication of a data rate.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) The device of claim 30 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using ~~Internet protocol is the~~ transmission control protocol (TCP)[[/]] over Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising: a microphone for transducing sound into the first analog voice stream.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising: a transducer for converting the second analog voice stream into sound.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising: a keypad for receiving user input.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 further comprising: a display device to provide visual feedback to a user.

Claims 39-53. (Cancelled)

Claim 54. (Currently amended) A method of operating a portable terminal device for supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the method comprising:

evaluating a message wirelessly received from the wireless packet network;
sending an indication of a data rate based upon the evaluation;
receiving digital voice packets via the wireless packet network at a data rate;
converting the received digital voice packets to a first analog voice stream;
transducing the first analog voice stream to produce sound;
converting sound to a second analog voice stream;
converting the second analog voice stream to digital voice packets; and
sending ~~via the wireless packet network~~ the digital voice packets converted from
the second analog voice ~~stream~~ stream, via the wireless packet network; and
wherein the sender of the received digital voice packets selects the data rate
based upon the indication of a data rate sent by the portable terminal device.

Claim 55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 59. (Currently amended) The method of claim 58 wherein the ~~Internet protocol is the~~ wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP)[[[]]] over Internet protocol (IP).

Claims 60-77. (Cancelled)

Claim 78. (New) A computer-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections for operating a portable terminal device supporting voice communication via a wireless packet network, the code sections executable by a processor for causing the processor to perform the operations comprising:

- evaluating a message wirelessly received from the wireless packet network;
- sending an indication of a data rate based upon the evaluation;
- receiving digital voice packets via the wireless packet network at a data rate;
- converting the received digital voice packets to a first analog voice stream;
- transducing the first analog voice stream to produce sound;
- converting sound to a second analog voice stream;
- converting the second analog voice stream to digital voice packets;
- sending the digital voice packets converted from the second analog voice stream, via the wireless packet network; and

wherein the sender of the received digital voice packets selects the data rate based upon the indication of a data rate sent by the portable terminal device.

Claim 79. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates at a frequency of approximately 2.4 gigahertz.

Claim 80. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a frequency hopping spread spectrum technique.

Claim 81. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using a direct sequence spread spectrum technique.

Claim 82. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using an Internet protocol.

Claim 83. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 82 wherein the wireless packet network communicates using transmission control protocol (TCP) over Internet protocol (IP).

Claim 84. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the evaluated message is received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 85. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 84 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 86. (New) The computer-readable storage of claim 78 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 87. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 88. (New) The device of claim 87 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 89. (New) The device of claim 22 wherein the evaluating evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 90. (New) The circuit of claim 30 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 91. (New) The circuit of claim 90 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 92. (New) The circuit of claim 30 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 93. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message received periodically via the wireless packet network.

Claim 94. (New) The method of claim 93 wherein the message received periodically is a polling message.

Claim 95. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the evaluation evaluates reception of a message preamble.

Claim 96. (New) A system for use in a portable terminal device, the system comprising:

at least one processor that decodes digital signals received and encodes digital signals for transmission via a wireless packet network, the at least one processor operating to, at least:

evaluate a message received wirelessly from a base station of the wireless packet network to determine communication conditions of a wireless channel;

send, to the base station via the wireless packet network, a message indicative of a data rate based upon the evaluation; and

receive packets of digital information from the base station via the wireless packet network at a data rate selected by the base station in response to the message indicative of a data rate.

Claim 97. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein each received packet of digital information occupies the entire capacity of a radio frequency channel during delivery.

Claim 98. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein each packet of digital information received by the at least one processor occupies a portion of one of a sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 99. (New) The system of claim 98 wherein the position of the portion within the fixed length time interval is determined by the base station separately for each of the sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 100. (New) The system of claim 99 wherein each fixed length time interval is between approximately 10 milliseconds and approximately 20 milliseconds in length.

Claim 101. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the data rate selected by the base station corresponds to the data rate indicated by the message indicative of a data rate sent by the at least one processor.

Claim 102. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein communication over the wireless packet network shares a single radio frequency channel.

Claim 103. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a periodic transmission of the base station.

Claim 104. (New) The system of claim 103 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a polling message.

Claim 105. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the communication conditions comprise one or both of a signal strength and/or acceptable reception of a message transmitted by the base station.

Claim 106. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the digital information is digitized voice.

Claim 107. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the at least one processor operates to, at least:

act as a master device in an exchange of digital information with a slave device, via a second wireless packet network having a shorter range than the wireless packet network.

Claim 108. (New) The system of claim 96 wherein the at least one processor operates to, at least:

receive image data from an image capture device; and
process the image data for transmission to the base station via the wireless packet network.

Claim 109. (New) A method of operating at least one processor in a portable terminal device, the method comprising:

evaluating a message received wirelessly from a base station of the wireless packet network to determine communication conditions of a wireless channel;

sending, to the base station via the wireless packet network, a message indicative of a data rate based upon the evaluation; and

receiving packets of digital information from the base station via the wireless packet network at a data rate selected by the base station in response to the message indicative of a data rate.

Claim 110. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein each received packet of digital information occupies the entire capacity of a radio frequency channel during delivery.

Claim 111. (New) The method of claim 96 wherein each packet of digital information received by the at least one processor occupies a portion of one of a sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 112. (New) The method of claim 111 wherein the position of the portion within the fixed length time interval is determined by the base station separately for each of the sequence of fixed length time intervals.

Claim 113 (New) The method of claim 112 wherein each fixed length time interval is between approximately 10 milliseconds and approximately 20 milliseconds in length.

Claim 114. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the data rate selected by the base station corresponds to the data rate indicated by the message indicative of a data rate sent by the at least processor.

Claim 115. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein communication over the wireless packet network shares a single radio frequency channel.

Claim 116. (New) The method of claim 113 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a periodic transmission of the base station.

Claim 117. (New) The method of claim 116 wherein the received message evaluated by the at least one processor is a polling message.

Claim 118. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the communication conditions comprise one or both of a signal strength and/or acceptable reception of a message transmitted by the base station.

Claim 119. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the digital information is digitized voice.

Claim 120. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the method comprises:
 acting as a master device in an exchange of digital information with a
 slave device, via a second wireless packet network having a shorter range than
 the wireless packet network.

Claim 121. (New) The method of claim 109 wherein the method comprises:
 receiving image data from an image capture device; and
 processing the image data for transmission to the base station via the
 wireless packet network.